

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12 and 13 are amended for clarification only.

In response to the Restriction/Election of Species Requirements, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-11 and 14, and elect Species I (Fig. 1). Claims 1-6 and 10-14 are directed to Figs. 1-3. The elections are made with traverse.

Claim 1 is generic to claims 2-14. It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that, "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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